Hughes To Appear For Suit

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SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 30 (UPI)—Billionaire Howard Hughes has agreed to come out of hiding long enough to give a deposition in a suit which charges he was bilked in the $9 million purchase of worthless Nevada mining claims.

In a telephone affidavit from London, Hughes agreed to testify in a civil damage suit filed against one of his former advisers and several businessmen by Hughes Tool Co.

"This document is intended to confirm that I expect to be available to answer such legitimate questions at such time and under such reasonable circumstances as the court may hereafter determine to be necessary to the case," Hughes said.

The affidavit filed Wednesday was taken by Lever B. Mylar of Salt Lake City, who was described as a friend of Hughes for more than 20 years, after the billionaire took the oath by telephone. Hughes' lawyers had Mylar appointed a commissioner of deeds for the United Kingdom in order to administer the oath.

Hughes said he "cannot conceive of any manner in which my testimony might be of use" in the suit, which accuses a former Hughes employee, John H. Meier, and nine other defendants of conspiring to sell the tool company mining claims for prices "far in excess of the value of the property."

Hughes Tool Co., which has changed its name to Summa Corp. since the suit was filed, paid more than $9 million for the claims while Meier was the firm's scientific adviser between 1967 and 1969.